

INFORMATION REPORT

INTELLOFAX 4

Flash

COUNTRY: USSR/IRAN

SUBJECT: Soviet Activity along the Iranian Border

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A report of Soviet activity along the Iranian border for the period
7 to 19 May 1951 follows.

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1. Del Dasht

14 May

Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Three
trains composed of 15 passenger cars, 24 empty cars,
two coal cars, two carloads of timber, one tank car, and
four closed cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: Two
trains composed of 15 passenger cars, seven tank cars,
45 closed cars, and three carloads of boxes.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan: Two
trains composed of two passenger cars, 34 closed cars,
two carloads of lumber, one car loaded with boxes of
cartridges, five carloads of planks, two carloads of
autos, two cars loaded with anti-aircraft machine guns,
and two cars loaded with mortars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhusfa: Two
trains composed of 16 passenger cars, two tank cars, and
22 closed cars.

15 May

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhusfa (possibly
westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan): Two trains composed
of 15 passenger cars, five tank cars, four carloads of
lumber, two cars carrying four trucks, one car loaded
with one engine, one carload of boxes of ammunition, and
24 closed cars.

night

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhusfa (possibly
westbound, Nakhichevan to Yerevan): One train of
unknown make-up.

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Pol Dasht continued-

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan (possibly eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan): Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, three tank cars, one car loaded with four engines, two cars carrying eight large black cases, one car carrying ammunition boxes, and 40 closed cars.

night Westbound rail traffic, Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan (possibly eastbound, Yerevan to Nakhichevan): Two trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan: Three trains composed of 19 passenger cars, eight tank cars, two cars carrying four autos, four cars carrying planks, and 11 closed cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhusfa: One train composed of 15 passenger cars and one closed car.

16-17 May Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Four trains composed of 29 passenger cars, eight tank cars, one car carrying machine guns, three carloads of wooden poles, 28 closed cars, and 24 empty cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: Six trains composed of 33 passenger cars, one boxcar, 14 tank cars, one coal car, one carload of wooden poles, three carloads of stones, one empty car, 103 closed cars, and two ammunition cars.

night Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: One train of unknown make-up.

18 May Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Two trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 14 tank cars, five coal cars, one car loaded with ten anti-aircraft guns, five carloads of planks, and 40 closed cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: One train composed of 15 passenger cars containing armed soldiers and civilians.

night Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: Two trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, ten tank cars, three carloads of logs, one carload of boxes, 25 closed cars, and one car loaded with nine anti-aircraft machine guns.

19 May Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Two trains composed of 16 passenger cars, nine carloads of trucks, 15 carloads of planks, and one closed car.

night Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: One train of unknown make-up.

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars and 25 carloads of sand; one train of unknown make-up.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhusfa to Nakhichevan: Two trains composed of 31 closed cars, three carloads of poles, five carloads of planks, 11 coal cars, 14 carloads of tractors, and six tank cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhusfa: One train composed of 15 passenger cars; one train of unknown make-up.

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2. Dzhulfa

14 May

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: One train composed of 30 boxcars, seven gondolas loaded with three autos, coal, and wood, and five tank cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Two passenger trains, number of cars not stated.

night

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Three trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound road traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two trucks carrying armed soldiers, and 50 trucks carrying passengers, coal, and soil.

One group of Soviet soldiers engaged in combat training.

15 May

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two trains composed of 36 boxcars and two gondolas.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: One train composed of 27 boxcars, five gondolas, and four tank cars; two passenger trains.

night

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: Two trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound road traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa: Twenty-four covered trucks; two trucks carrying wood.

Eastbound road traffic, Dzhulfa to Ordubad: One truck full of armed soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: Forty trucks carrying 35 civilians and wood.

16 May

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two passenger trains, number of cars not stated; one train composed of 18 boxcars, and 15 gondolas loaded with wood and lumber.

Direction unstated: One train pulling one crane (sic).

night

Direction unstated: Two trains of unknown make-up.

16-17 May
(possible duplication
of above date)

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa: Three trains composed of 47 boxcars, 27 gondolas, eight carloads of autos, and 11 tank cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Three trains composed of 26 boxcars and 17 gondolas; four passenger trains, number of cars not stated.

night

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Four trains of unknown make-up.

Eastbound road traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: One hundred fifty-seven trucks carrying 51 unarmed soldiers, wood, lumber and bricks; one truck-drawn 105 mm gun

Westbound road traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: One hundred thirty-eight trucks carrying 88 unarmed soldiers, coal, and soil.

During one of the days, 50 soldiers engaged in rifle and machine gun firing practice.

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Dzhulfa continued:

Westbound road traffic, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: On 17 May, 23 trucks carrying soldiers and drawing 75 mm guns.

19 May

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: One train composed of 25 boxcars, five tank cars, and eight gondolas carrying ten trucks.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 46 boxcars, one tank car, two gondolas loaded with coal, and four tank cars (sic).

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Three gondolas carrying coal.

night

Direction unstated: One train of unknown make-up.

Two passenger trains ran according to schedule.

Eastbound road traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Four empty jeeps, 41 trucks of coal, and 12 soldiers.

Westbound road traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa: One truck carrying tables and chairs and ten unarmed soldiers.

3. 11 May

13-14 May

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Five trains composed of 28 passenger cars, 44 covered cars, five tank cars, and 57 gondolas containing autos, pipe, tires, and coal.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Three trains composed of 28 passenger cars, 27 covered cars, two tank cars, and eight carloads of planks, lumber, and gravel.

16-18 May

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Eight trains composed of 43 passenger cars, 115 covered cars, seven tank cars, 58 gondolas containing trucks, planks, tires, and wire, and five cars carrying unarmed soldiers.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Seven trains composed of 42 passenger cars, 86 covered cars, 26 tank cars, and 35 gondolas containing five engines, a crane, and lumber.

19 May

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Three trains composed of 15 passenger cars, 62 covered cars, eight tank cars, and 23 gondolas.

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, 12 covered cars, three tank cars, and 22 gondolas.

19 May
(alternate version)

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Three trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 36 covered cars, and 26 gondolas carrying ten trucks, tractors, planks, and poles.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: One train composed of 14 passenger cars.

4. Khuda Afarin

- 7 May, 1500 hours

Four shots were fired towards the post of Mohammad station by the Soviet. One of the shots almost hit a soldier at the post while the other three shots fell in the village. A protest was lodged with the Soviet frontier guards.

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Zhuda Afarin

11 May

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Three trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 39 boxcars, one gondola carrying a number of civilians, eight gondolas carrying auto accessories, one gondola carrying boxes, 14 empty gondolas, and two tank cars.

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: One train composed of nine boxcars, two gondolas carrying auto accessories, and one tank car.

11-15 May

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Six trains composed of 24 passenger cars, 107 boxcars, 17 tank cars, 21 gondolas carrying various equipment, and five gondolas carrying coal.

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 32 boxcars, ten tank cars, 33 gondolas carrying wood, lumber, and coal, and four gondolas carrying autos.

15-17 May

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Six trains composed of 30 passenger cars, 86 freight cars, 24 gondolas, and 21 tank cars.

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Four trains composed of 73 freight cars, 39 gondolas carrying ten civilians, barrels, and coal, and one tank car.

18 May

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, 54 boxcars, three gondolas, and two tank cars.

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 34 boxcars, 12 gondolas carrying wood, poles, coal, and one truck, and 12 tank cars.

5. Gard

19 May

The Soviets have increased their activities in this area. Patrols which formerly patrolled behind the barbed wire along the frontier now patrol in front of the barbed wire. The number of officers and guards has been increased at the posts in the area.

6. Astara

14 May

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: Two jeeps carrying four officers and a few unarmed soldiers; nine trucks; a number (sic) of soldiers.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: One jeep and six trucks.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: One auto and one truck carrying three officers and one unarmed soldier; two trucks carrying unarmed soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: One truck carrying unarmed soldiers; one cart carrying six soldiers and one civilian.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: Two trucks full of sergeants and soldiers; two trucks carrying one sergeant, one civilian, and five unarmed soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: Three trucks full of armed soldiers; one officer on a bicycle.

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Astara continued1100-1800
hours

Twelve soldiers installed 30 iron poles along the river bank adjacent to the Soviet military highway. An officer supervised the work.

0200 hours

Two white rockets were fired opposite the school building at Bagchen Sareh.

Six white rockets and four other rockets were fired at Astara.

Searchlights were turned on 16 times during the night.

13 May

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: One jeep and 13 trucks carrying unidentified equipment; one truck full of soldiers; two groups of armed infantry.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: One jeep; one truck full of soldiers; one group of infantry.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: One jeep, two trucks, one cart carrying nine officers and seven unarmed soldiers; one truck full of unarmed soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: One jeep and two trucks carrying two armed soldiers and eight civilians.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: Two jeeps and two trucks carrying two officers and three armed soldiers; one truck full of male and female civilians.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: One jeep, one motorcycle, two trucks, and one cart carrying four officers, two armed soldiers, one woman, and wood.

1100-1200
hours

Soviet soldiers conducted rifle firing practice along the sea shore.

Eight white rockets and one red rocket were fired at Haidar Mahalleh and Qanbar Mahalleh.

Searchlights were turned on eight times during the night.

16-17 May

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: Six jeeps, 20 trucks, and one auto.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: Twelve covered trucks; one truckload of iron; one group of soldiers.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: Two jeeps and nine trucks carrying eight officers, 11 unarmed soldiers, three barrels, wooden telegraph poles, sheep and pigs.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: Two jeeps and two trucks carrying three officers, three unarmed soldiers, and telegraph poles; one truck full of unarmed soldiers; one officer riding a bicycle.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: Eight trucks, two motorcycles, and two carts carrying one officer, 11 sergeants, 24 armed soldiers, four civilians, rice, and wood; two trucks full of civilians.

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Astara continued.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: Four trucks, four jeeps, three trucks (sic), three carts, and one motorcycle carrying nine sergeants and officers, 12 armed soldiers, 11 civilians, and lumber; one truck full of men and women.

Twenty-three white and red rockets were fired at Haidar Mahalleh, the Astara garrison, and the coast. Two red rockets were fired opposite the Qala post.

Twenty Soviet soldiers and one officer engaged in rifle firing practice.

18 May

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: One auto, two jeeps, nine covered trucks, one truckload of armed soldiers, two groups of armed infantry.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: One truck with unknown contents; one group of armed infantry.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: Four trucks carrying four officers, three sergeants, two soldiers, telegraph poles, and boxes of ammunition.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: Two trucks carrying two barrels, boxes, two soldiers, and one sergeant; one truckload of male and female laborers.

One officer and two armed soldiers went from Qapchi Mahalleh to the post of Bagchen S-reh.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: One jeep and five trucks carrying five officers, six sergeants, and one civilian; one jeep and two trucks full of male and female civilians.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: One jeep and two trucks carrying four officers, wood, and telegraph poles.

Four white rockets were fired at Haidar Mahalleh.

Searchlights were turned on 11 times during the night.

19 May

Soviet posts in this area have stepped up their activity. Road and rail traffic has increased.

7. Lutfabad

12-13 May

Westbound rail traffic, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: Ten trains composed of 18 passenger cars, 249 tank cars, six carloads of guns, 18 cars carrying iron, 11 coal cars, ten carloads of wood, one car carrying wood-cutting machinery, and 60 covered cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: Twelve trains composed of one passenger car, 143 tank cars, four carloads of jeeps, three cars carrying tractors, seven carloads of autos, eight carloads of wood, 18 carloads of iron, and 130 covered cars.

night

East and westbound rail traffic, between Kaakha and Ashkhabad: Nine trains of unknown make-up.

Sixteen locomotives of the trains observed were diesel types.

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~~Ashkhabad~~ continued--

14-16 May

Westbound rail traffic, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: Sixteen trains composed of 36 passenger cars, 182 tank cars, 63 carloads of iron, four carloads of autos, 14 coal cars, and 87 boxcars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: Seventeen trains composed of four passenger cars, 246 tank cars, 23 carloads of iron and wood, 126 boxcars, and one car carrying a gun and seven jeeps.

night

East and westbound rail traffic, between Kaakha and Ashkhabad: Twelve trains of unknown make-up.

Twenty-seven locomotives of the trains observed were diesel types.

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